

Mr. Chairman, members of the Business, Labor, and

Economic Affairs committee

My name is Susan Mergenthaler, I reside east of

East Helena, I am a financial specialist for the

State of Montana and a Volunteer at Eastgate

Volunteer Fire Department. I have had dentures

since I was 16 years of age. The first set of

dentures were made by a dentist. Not to take

anything away from any dentist, the denturists

because of their specialized training have been able

to fit dentures far better and because they only

work with the dentures and oral prosthetic devices  
are able to keep costs down.

My first set of dentures did not fit very well. It  
was difficult to chew meat, bite into things such as  
vegetables and fruits. The dentist tried to make  
the fit better without much improvement. For years  
I spent a lot of money on items to help secure the  
dentures, I would break out or burn my mouth from  
the chemicals in the gels or powders. . . nothing  
worked very well. I was so uncomfortable, not  
knowing if the dentures would stay in my mouth or

not, I would not say very much and when I did talk I  
would have my hand over my mouth or very close in  
order to catch the dentures should they spew out.

When I had dental insurance, I went to a denturist  
as I had heard such wonderful accounts of better  
fit, a natural look, not having to put powders or gels  
on your dentures, etc. My second set of dentures  
cost roughly \$800 less than the first. My third set  
is still \$600 less than the first.

I have had no problems with dentures done by  
denturists. Other than cleaning, I wear my

dentures 24/7 and typically see the denturist every  
six or seven years.

Denturists work on the dentures and oral prosthetic  
devices, unnatural teeth. A board of denturists will  
ensure continued public safety, proper licensure,  
certifications and registrations under the laws of the  
State of Montana.